

East Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council
Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Department
14150 Hamilton Lake Road
Newberry, Michigan
Monday, August 11, 2008

Minutes

EUP CAC Members Present:

William Borst
Alfred Colegrove
Lisa DenBoer
Robert DeVillez
Dale DuFour
James Duke
Scott Hickman
Glenn Moll
Brenda Owen
Richard Pershinske
Stephen Rodock
James Rutledge
Douglas Scheuneman
Thomas Schweitzer
Steve Walker

EUP CAC Members Absent:

Michael Lawless
Lester Livermore

Department of Natural Resources Staff Present:

Tom Courchaine, Acting Upper Peninsula (UP) Field Deputy, Marquette
Lt. John Cischke, Law Enforcement Division, Newberry
Gary Ellenwood, Parks and Recreation, Newberry
Todd Kalish, Fisheries, Newberry
Terry Minzey, Wildlife Division, Newberry
Jessica Mistak, Fisheries, Marquette
Mike Paluda, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM), Marquette
Steve Scott, Fisheries, Newberry
Penny Bacon, Executive Division, Marquette

The East Upper Peninsula (EUP) Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by **Tom Courchaine**. Tom provided an overview of the meeting agenda and recapped the Charter for the UP Citizen Advisory Councils.

Tom Courchaine noted that DNR staff has been assigned to the EUP CAC as resources to the council. He stressed that the CAC is an independent group and the DNR doesn't

serve on the council. The DNR staff assigned to the CAC makes decisions for their respective Divisions in their areas. If they are unable to answer questions, they will get the answers and bring back the answers to the council.

Tom Courchaine introduced Linda Rossberg. Linda Rossberg is the Marquette County Extension Director for Michigan State University Extension and she will be facilitating the meeting. Some of the items that need to be determined:

- How often should the CAC meet?
- When and where should the CAC meet?
- Should the CAC develop an organizational structure?

DNR staff introductions:

Mike Paluda, Field Coordinator for Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, Marquette. He supervises the EUP and also is the Field Coordinator for the Upper Peninsula.

Lieutenant John Cischke, District Supervisor for Law Enforcement Division, Newberry. He supervises Conservation Officers in Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Alger, Schoolcraft, and Delta counties.

Gary Ellenwood, District Supervisor for Parks and Recreation, Newberry. He oversees all of the state parks, state harbors, and state boat access sites from Gaylord north and the EUP.

Terry Minzey, EUP Management Unit Supervisor for Wildlife Division, Newberry. His area covers East Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Mackinac and Chippewa counties.

Todd Kalish, Fisheries Supervisor for the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit, Newberry. The management unit manages inland lakes and streams by watersheds.

Steve Scott, Lake Superior Basin Coordinator, Newberry. He supervises the Western Lake Superior Management Unit, Baraga and the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit, Newberry.

Jessica Mistak, fisheries biologist, Marquette. She covers the whole UP and works on hydro dams, dam removals, mining.

Linda Rossberg asked the Council to introduce themselves and what skill they bring to the table:

Council Members Introductions:

Jim Rutledge represents the Two-Heart Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Richard Pershinske represents agriculture and is a small business owner. He is willing to negotiate and compromise. A leader needs to be a good listener and a good communicator.

Brenda Owen represents the Michigan Society of American Foresters. She keeps an open-mind to all of the opportunities that are out there.

Bill Borst represents the Ruffed Grouse Society – East UP Chapter. As a society they have worked hard on improving habitat. He has good organizational skills.

Doug Scheuneman represents the Alger County Fish & Game Alliance. He has an extensive background in forestry and brings diversity of experience to the table.

Steve Rodock represents the Ruffed Grouse Society and is a soil scientist with a vast knowledge of the resource.

Steve Walker represents the Drummond Island Tourism Association and the Drummond Island Off Road Vehicle Club. He is a small business owner with a background in commercial banking. He has experience facilitating.

Tom Schweitzer represents the Manistique Lakes Areas. He believes you need to have an organized plan and have control.

Bob DeVillez represents the Michigan Forest Association. He has been a member of MFA since 1972 and is a retired DNR forester. Mr. DeVillez was a cooperative forest management specialist. He believes in honesty about the resources.

Glenn Moll represents the Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan. He is a retired forester from Mead; he is interested in renewable resources and responsible management. Mr. Moll also serves on the ORV trail advisory board.

Lisa DenBoer, she is listed as an individual but has land use experience as the Planning Director for Luce County. She has experience dealing with conflict and complaints. She is a good conservationist.

Alfred Colegrove is the past president of Straits Area Sportsmen's Club and is the Region I Michigan United Conservation Clubs representative. He has experience working with the public and is able to carry the message. He is a good communicator.

Dale Dufour is a former County Commissioner for Schoolcraft County and is representing U.P. Whitetails, Schoolcraft County. He is a decision maker.

Scott Hickman represents the Michigan Sharptailed Grouse Association. It's important to learn how to work together and to pursue your passions. He enjoys teaching.

Jim Duke represents the Michigan Snowmobile Association. Mr. Duke supports keeping access for all recreations users.

Tom Courchaine said a resource book is being compiled for the CAC. It will contain legal framework, policies, organization charts, and division projects recently completed, ongoing, or planned. We will bring topics near to us and pass onto the CAC. The DNR uses councils, groups, and boards, like the wolf roundtable. Some are required by statute that addresses what the DNR does on the landscape. This CAC is new to us in that respect and new for the Department. The CAC's will offer recommendations to the DNR to be used in establishing work priorities at the local level.

Tom Courchaine said the DNR would provide support for mailings, press releases, scheduling meetings, and posting the meeting minutes on the web site. The public needs to be able to contact the CAC to ask questions, to share comments or concerns. The contact information needs to be listed on the web site. Discussion continued. The CAC asked if an email address could be established for the council. If so, someone from the council could filter and send out to the members. Some members thought a phone number was still needed for the public who do not use email. **Tom Courchaine** will check on the possibility of setting up an email account for the CAC.

Discussion continued on the need for structure within the CAC. Should there be a chair person, co-chair, and secretary. If so, how long should each position serve, yearly? How often should the CAC's meet?

In order to provide some timelines for how often the CAC should meet, **Mike Paluda**, gave a brief synopsis of what is happening in FMFM:

- Finalizing the compartment review process for the end of December. These reviews will decide on 10% of FMFM activities on state land for 2010.
- Current access issues with snowmobile trails. Also, there is a legislative mandate to expand ORV trails.
- EUP Regional State Forest Management Plan is ongoing. Public meetings will probably be scheduled in January 2009.
- Final work is being done on approximately 12,000-14,000 acres of timber sales for 2009 in the EUP.

Other DNR staff reports:

Terry Minzey said Wildlife and FMFM divisions are working on a red pine project; we are trying to diversify the age class of red pine. The bear management plan is being develop with ongoing public input meetings. The plan should be completed by September 2009. A deer management plan is also being developed; this plan will take two years to complete. Also, they are working on more deer habitat work. Because of the beech bark disease we will lose 90-95 percent of the beech. We are working on mitigating the loss of beech with red oak. Dale DuFour and the Schoolcraft UP Whitetails partnered with us on a fencing project in Schoolcraft County. The Wildlife regulations meeting is scheduled for August 27 and 28.

Gary Ellenwood said the world is changing and as you lead this group into the future you need to think about the younger population. Also, the CAC will need to establish

credibility with the public; some people don't believe this council will function effectively.

Steve Scott reported on a few statewide issues concerning Fisheries. We are seeking input on increasing the number of fishing rods from 2 to 3 for inland, great lakes, and ice fishing and increasing the bag limit on salmon from 3 to 5 on all of the Great Lakes. Also, there are some interstate issues such as the ballast water discharge, exotic species, and the diversion of Great Lakes waters.

After discussion, the CAC decided on the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- Half of the council members will provide a brief synopsis of themselves. The synopsis shall be no longer than 2 minutes.
- The EUP Regional State Forest Management plan. The DNR will invite Richard Stevenson, chair of the EUP Eco-team to the September CAC meeting to answer any questions.

The CAC also decided they wanted an organized structure within the council. The council elected a chair, Richard Pershinske; vice-chair, Lisa DenBoer; secretary Brenda Owen. These positions are one year appointments from August to August. The CAC members also decided their appointments to the council will begin in August. The CAC also agreed they didn't need a facilitator for their next meeting

The CAC continued to discuss how many member votes are needed for a quorum: The CAC decided a quorum would be one more member than half of the members in attendance. **Steve Rodock** made a motion supported **Steve Hickman**. Motion unanimously carried.

The CAC discussed how many votes are needed to pass recommendations. The CAC decided $\frac{3}{4}$ of members in attendance. **Doug Schenueman** made a motion supported by **Jim Duke**. Motion unanimously carried.

Todd Kalish commended the CAC on their efficiency.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Luce Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) Office, 14150 Hamilton Lake Road, Newberry.

Wrap-up:

Tom reiterated the DNR will send out press releases, post the minutes, and provide a resource book. Some items that still need to be decided:

- What process do you use for public input?
- Are meetings mandatory for the CAC members?
- Replacement of members if they resign.
- Do you want to utilize subcommittees?
- How are you going to give advice to the DNR?
- Should the CAC have bylaws?

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.